FORTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OF THE

BRECONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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W. F. W. BETENSON
M.B., D.P.H.
School Medical Officer.

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Mr. W. H. Morgan, C.P. School, Penrhos.
Mrs. C. M. Gardner, 6, Windsor Road, Brynmawr.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRECONSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the 43rd Annual Report of the School Medical Service and its work during the year ending 31st December, 1953.

During the year 2954 children were inspected who were attending the Primary and Secondary Schools and 1221 attending the County Grammar Schools, compared with 2497 and 78 respectively in 1952.

Gradually it is becoming apparent that in regard to the service being given to the school child as a result of the Education Act, 1944, and the National Health Service Act, 1946, there is a steady all-round improvement. Liaison with the family doctor is improving and I am very glad to record that we have received every possible co-operation from the consultant service.

The School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, allowed us to re-arrange the age groups for the routine medical inspections should this have been found desirable. As a matter of fact, however, the system which was already in force required very little alteration The general scheme, to which we have always adhered was to give Infants, Modern Secondary and Grammar Schools an examination of all their entrants every year and this is now supplemented by additional examinations of the 10, 14 and 16 year age groups, so that all children should receive at least 4, and possibly 5 routine medical examinations during their school career. The general school medical work is, however, constantly on the increase and it remains to be seen to what extent your present staff will be adequate to cope with it when the scheme for inoculation against whooping cough and tuberculosis (B.C.G.) commences in addition to the time at present required to keep the diphtheria inoculations up to date.

The Penoyre Open Air Residential School has now started to take on a definite standing in the County. It caters for junior and senior girls and for junior boys.

Shortage of speech therapists continues to hold up the work in this direction. A whole time appointment is scarcely justified in this county and I am indebted to neighbouring authorities for allowing a few of our cases to attend their clinics.

Staff.—Dr. D. W. T. Harris resigned his appointment as Assistant Medical Officer in 3/7/53, and was succeeded by Dr. R. G. Evans, B.SC., M.B., B CH., C.P.H., D.P.H., who commenced duties on 21/10/53.

Mass Radiography Service.—The Mass Radiography Unit completed the survey of Breconshire which was commenced at the end of 1952, by visiting Cefn and Ystradgynlais in January, 1953. Details of the numbers of school children of 14 years of age and over examined, were as follows :—

Cefn Coed	117
Ystradgynlais	263
TOTAL	380

No cases of tuberculosis were found among the 380 pupils examined and no cases as needing observation for tuberculosis, but 6 cases were reported for other abnormalities.

School Closures.—One school was closed on account of infectious disease.

Once again I have to express my thanks to the teaching staffs of the schools for their courtesy and consideration to the department on all occasions.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. W. BETENSON,

Principal School Medical Officer.

County Health Department,
The Watton, Brecon.
August, 1954.

TABLE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Number of Departments	...	99
Number of Scholars on the Roll	...	9037
Average Attendance	...	8281·0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—

Number of children immunised by the Council's Medical Officers during the year ended 31st December, 1953:—

District.		Primary. Immunisation.			Re-inforcing Doses.
		Under 5	5—14	Totals	
Brecon Urban	...	25	6	31	201
Brynmawr Urban	...	41	4	45	17
Builth Urban	...	13	–	13	19
Hay Urban	...	4	6	10	49
Llanwrtyd Urban	...	–	1	1	10
Brecon Rural	...	19	18	37	97
Builth Rural	...	–	6	6	19
Crickhowell Rural	...	24	15	39	133
Hay Rural	...	19	–	19	75
Vaynor Rural	...	26	1	27	1
Ystradgynlais Rural	...	119	16	135	202
Totals	...	290	73	363	823

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—

Number of Children examined :—

		Males	Females	Totals
Routine Inspections	...	1106	1116	2222
Special Inspections	...	90	88	178
Re-Inspections	...	219	335	554
Totals	...	1415	1539	2954

COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.—

Number of Children examined :—

		Males	Females	Totals
Routine Inspections	...	533	501	1034
Special Inspections	...	10	8	18
Re-Inspections	...	70	99	169
Totals	...	613	608	1221

TREATMENT OF VISION.

1. Number of children examined in the year ... 433
2. Number for whom spectacles
   (*a*) were prescribed ... 294
   (*b*) were obtained ... not known*

*From 5/7/48 spectacles were obtained from opticians and not by L.E.A.

Table of Cases examined by the Assistant School Medical Officer

No. of cases seen.	No. referred to Eye Specialist.	No. of cases for whom glasses were prescribed.
97	14	60

Table of Cases examined by the Eye Specialist.

No. of cases seen. New cases.	Re-Inspections.	Total	No. of cases for whom glasses were prescribed.
140	210	350	234

EYE OPERATIONS.

All cases of eye operation are now referred by Mr. G. W. Hoare, the Eye Specialist, to the Panteg Hospital, Griffithstown.

Details of the number of children operated on are as follows :—

PANTEG HOSPITAL.

Date	No. of Children operated upon.	Type of Operation.
15.1.53	1	Squint
30.4.53	1	Temple-Smith Operation
13.5.53	1	Squint
20.5.53	2	Squints
17.6.53	1	Rt. Mortais Operation
1.7.53	1	Squint
-.7.53	1	Squint
16.12.53	1	Squint

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

Orthopaedic Clinics throughout the County were held at regular intervals by the Orthopaedic Sister, Miss I. B. Leefe.

Urgent cases were sent to see Mr. A. O. Parker, the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff. Mr. Parker attended the County on two occasions and Mr. James also attended on two occasions.

Table of Cases seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeons, Mr. A. O. Parker at Brecon and Brynmawr, and Mr. James at Ystradgynlais :

Centre. Date of Examination	Brynmawr 24/4/53	Ystradgynlais 16/9/53	Brecon 16/10/53	Ystradgynlais 16/12/53
1. Number of Children called up for examination ...	51	24	40	28
2. Number of Children present and examined ...	43	23	39	28
3. Number found not to require Treatment ...	—	—	1	—
4. Number found to require Domiciliary or Clinic Treatment ...	34	16	31	20
5. Number found to require Hospital Treatment ...	3	2	4	4
6. For X-Ray ...	—	3	1	—
7. For Observation ...	6	2	2	4

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR DELICATE CHILDREN.

The Open Air School opened this year at Penoyre House, 3 miles North of Brecon in a fine well elevated situation has begun to get into its stride. Owned by Merthyr Borough Council it is managed by a joint Board of the three authorities of Merthyr, Breconshire and Radnorshire, each of whom have a number of vacancies in proportion to their expenditure in connection with it. The school opened on a basis of catering at the start off for 60 boys and girls and the number of places allotted to Breconshire was 18. After a few months it was decided that no more senior boys, i e., those aged eleven and over should be admitted.

Up to the end of this year 14 children (7 boys and 7 girls) were in residence and three had been discharged.

A particularly gratifying feature is that for some reason asthma cases seem to do very well there.

COLOUR BLINDNESS.

During the year just over 700 junior and senior boys were examined by me bringing to light 12 new cases of colour blindness. On the Ishihara classification these came out as :—

Completely green blind	...	8
Completely red blind	...	1
Completely red green blind	...	1
Incomplete total colour blind	...	1
Inconclusive	...	1

One of the red blind cases was badly affected to an extent which would limit his choice of career.

REPORT OF SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.

Owing to the absence of your Principal Dental Officer on indefinite sick leave, I have the honour to present a report on the School Dental Service for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The staff has remained the same but a second Assistant Dental Officer, Mr. P. J. George, was appointed on the 25th September, and is due to commence duty in January, 1954.

The figures for dental inspection and treatment are disappointing when compared with those of the previous year but there are several reasons to account for this. Your Principal Dental Officer was absent for 17 days whilst attending conferences in the capacity of President of the Public Dental Officers Group of the British Dental Association. He was also absent for two weeks at the end of the year on account of sickness. Your Assistant Dental Officer was absent from duty for two weeks in June on account of sickness and one week in October, due to attendance at a Civil Defence Course in his capacity as County Ambulance Officer.

One eleventh of your Officers' time has been allotted to the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school age children. At first the demand for treatment was small but has grown steadily and it would appear that if the present trend continues, one day per week will not be sufficient to cope with the treatment.

In addition to the routine inspection and treatment of school children, regular clinics have been held at Ystradgynlais, Brynmawr, Brecon and Cefn. These clinics are well attended and afford an opportunity for emergency treatment should the necessity for this arise between routine inspections. A certain proportion of these cases are referred by the School Medical Officer and occasionally by the child's own doctor. Parents frequently bring their pre-school age children for advice and treatment.

A new clinic is being built at Crickhowell and when completed certain items of equipment will be required so that regular sessions can be held there. It is also proposed to pay regular visits to the clinic in Builth. This clinic, however, is poorly equipped, the only item of equipment being a dental chair.

Occasionally during inspection in the schools one comes across children who appear to be immune to dental caries. In some cases they admit that they do not brush their teeth and yet they are immune or practically immune to dental decay. Questions about diet do not reveal any striking departure from the normal. One is inclined to think that perhaps the immunity is hereditary. If time permitted it would be interesting to carry out a more thorough investigation of these cases.

25 children were fitted with partial dentures to replace teeth lost through accident or dental caries and 19 children were fitted with regulation plates for the correction of irregularities.

No report on the School Dental Service would be complete without reference to the co-operation received from the teaching staff throughout the County.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Apart from the treatment figures given in Table II, Group V, the following treatment has been carried out :—

Dentures supplied	...	25
No. of Reg. Plates supplied	...	19
Reg. Plate adjustments	...	57
No. of impressions taken	...	65
No. of Vincents treatments	...	—
No. treated for Vincents	...	—
X-Ray Plates	...	1

NUTRITION, 1953.

Primary and Secondary.

DR. W. F. W. BETENSON.

Group	No. Ex'd.	A	%	B	%	C	%
Entrants ...	63	34	53·97	29	46·03	—	—
2nd Age Group ...	184	122	66·30	61	33·16	1	0·54
3rd Age Group ...	69	50	72·47	15	21·73	4	5·80
Totals ...	316	206	65·19	105	33·22	5	1·59

DR. D. W. T. HARRIS (Resigned 31/7/53)

Entrants ...	915	254	27·76	654	71·47	7	0·77
2nd Age Group ...	177	56	31·64	118	66·67	3	1·69
3rd Age Group ...	4	4	100·00	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1096	314	28·64	772	70·43	10	0·93

DR. C. M. S. EVANS.

Group	No. Ex'd.	A	%	B	%	C	%
Entrants ...	212	86	40·66	119	56·13	7	3·21
2nd Age Group ...	192	80	41·67	104	54·17	8	4·16
3rd Age Group ...	69	22	31·88	43	62·32	4	5·80
Totals ...	473	188	39·74	266	56·24	19	4·02

DR. R. G. EVANS (commenced 21/10/53).

Entrants ...	236	120	50.85	114	48·30	2	0·85
2nd Age Group ...	100	65	65.00	34	34.00	1	1·00
3rd Age Group ...	1	—	—	1	100.00	—	—
Totals ...	337	185	54·90	149	44·21	3	0·89

TOTALS

Entrants ...	1426	494	34·64	916	64·24	16	1·12
2nd Age Group ...	653	323	49·46	317	48·55	13	1·99
3rd Age Group ...	143	76	53·15	59	41·26	8	5·59
Grand Totals ...	2222	893	40·19	1292	58·15	37	1·66

COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

DR. W. F. W. BETENSON.

Other Periodic Inspections ...	305	112	36·72	183	60·00	10	3·28
3rd Age Group ...	228	137	60·09	88	38·60	3	1·31
Totals ...	533	249	46·72	271	50·84	13	2·44

DR. C. M. S. EVANS.

Other Periodic Inspections ...	300	115	33·83	165	55·00	20	6·67
3rd Age Group ...	201	94	46·76	99	49·25	8	3·99
Totals ...	501	209	41·72	264	52·69	28	5·59

TOTALS.

Other Periodic Inspections ...	605	227	37·52	348	57·52	30	4·96
3rd Age Group ...	429	231	53·85	187	43·59	11	2·56
Grand Totals ...	1034	458	44·29	535	51·74	41	3·97

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections, 1953.

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections.

NUMBER OF CODE GROUP INSPECTIONS.—

		P. & S.	C.G.
Entrants	...	1426	—
Second Age Group	...	653	—
Third Age Group	...	143	429
Totals	...	2222	429
Number of other Periodic Inspections	...	—	605
Total Routine Inspections	...	2222	1034

B.—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	...	178	18
Number of Re-Inspections	...	554	169
Totals	...	732	187
Grand Totals	...	2954	1221
,, ,, (1952)	...	2497	78

C.—Pupils found to require treatment.

No. of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding dental diseases and Infestation with Vermin) :—

Group		For defective vision (excluding squint).	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA.	Total individual pupils
Entrants	...	38	94	127
Second Age Group	...	32	25	51
Third Age Group	...	21	16	36
Total Prescribed groups	...	91	135	214
Other periodic inspections		35	24	57
Grand Total	...	126	159	271

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.

Return of defects found by medical inspection during the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Defect or Disease.		Periodic Inspections No. of defects. Requiring treatment	Periodic Inspections No. of defects. Requiring to be kept under observation.	Special Inspections. No. of defects. Requiring treatment	Special Inspections. No. of defects. Requiring to be kept under observation.
Skin	...	20	60	3	—
Eyes—					
a. Vision	...	126	123	72	50
b. Squint	...	4	2	7	—
c. Other	...	5	3	3	—
Ears—					
a. Hearing	...	17	27	13	4
b. Otitis media	...	1	3	—	—
c. Other	...	2	2	1	—
Nose or Throat	...	27	176	40	51
Speech	...	2	13	2	6
Cervical Glands	...	3	84	1	19
Heart and Circulation	...	5	78	—	13
Lungs	...	12	53	5	9
Developmental—					
a. Hernia	...	13	21	1	—
b. Other	...	5	94	—	8
Orthopaedic—					
a. Posture	...	6	21	2	3
b. Flat Foot	...	15	11	2	2
c. Other	...	25	29	5	10
Nervous System—					
a. Epilepsy	...	—	3	—	—
b. Other	...	—	6	—	2
Psychological—					
a. Development	...	3	26	3	2
b. Stability	...	1	8	—	—
Other	...	1	7	—	1

PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ...	38240
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	128
(iii)	No. of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act, 1944)	Nil
(iv)	No. of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(3) Education Act, 1944)	Nil

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Including SPECIAL SCHOOLS).

Group 1.—Diseases of the skin (excluding uncleanliness).

		No. of cases treated or under treatment during the year.	
		By the Authority.	Otherwise.
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	...	—	—
(ii) Body	...	2	—
Scabies	...	1	—
Impetigo	...	24	—
Other skin diseases	...	36	—
Total	...	63	—

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE IV (Continued).

Group 2.—Eye Diseases. Defective Vision and Squint.

	No. of cases dealt with By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint ...	5	—
Errors of refraction (including squint)	83	350*
Total ...	88	350*
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed ...	60	234*
(b) Obtained ...	Not known as spectacles are now supplied by opticians	

*Cases examined by Mr. Hoare, the Eye Specialist, at School Clinics under the Hospital Service.

Group 3.—Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

	No. of cases treated By the Authority.	Otherwise.
Received operative treatment—		
(a) for diseases of the ear ...	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis ...	—	26*
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	—
Received other forms of treatment...	11	—
Total ...	11	26*

*This is the number of children known to have been operated on, but the true figure will be greater than this as hospitals do not generally notify this Office of cases treated.

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE IV (Continued)

Group 4.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals ...		17
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
(b) No. treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments ...	988	132

Group 5.—Child Guidance Treatment.

No. of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics ...	Nil

Group 6.—Speech Therapy.

	No. of cases treated.	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
No. of pupils treated by Speech Therapists ...	—	Nil

Group 7.—Other Treatment Given.

	No. of cases treated.	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	79	—
(b) Others ...	—	—
Total ...	79	—

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE V.

Dental Inspection and Treatment carried out by the Authority. 1953.

1.	No. of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—		
	(a) Periodic age groups	...	3011
	(b) Specials	...	366
	Total	...	3377
2.	No. found to require treatment	...	1869
3.	No. referred for treatment	...	1659
4.	No. actually treated	...	2282
5.	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	2712
6.	Half-days devoted to : (a) Inspection	...	128
	(b) Treatment	...	568
	Total	...	696
7.	Fillings : Permanent Teeth	...	1170
	Temporary Teeth	...	344
	Total	...	1514
8.	No. of Teeth Filled : Permanent Teeth	...	1115
	Temporary Teeth	...	327
	Total	...	1432
9.	Extractions : Permanent Teeth	...	606
	Temporary Teeth	...	3129
	Total	...	3735
10.	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	1
11.	Other Operations : Permanent Teeth	...	195
	Temporary Teeth	...	19
	Total	...	214

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

TABLE VI.

Summary of Weekly and Monthly Reports of School Nurses, 1953.

SCHOOL DISTRICT.	Number of Monthly Visits paid by Nurses to Schools	Total Number of Children Examined	Number of Visits paid for "Following-up" Defects.				Special Visits paid to Homes
			First Visits		Re-Visit		
			Home	School	Home	School	
BRECON	62	3376	2	6	5	5	26
BRYNMAWR	18	1880	—	—	—	—	4
BRYNMAWR (Llanelly)	22	2284	—	—	—	—	24
BUILTH	165	6610	36	10	11	4	8
CRICKHOWELL	76	5116	—	—	—	—	—
DEFYNOCK	18	514	—	1	—	12	1
HAY AND TALGARTH	193	8892	28	2	25	8	31
VAYNOR	44	4536	—	18	2	2	30
YSTRADGYNLAIS	50	5032	5	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	648	38240	71	37	43	31	124

HANDICAPPED PUPILS. TABLE VII.

Category	In Special Schools		In Maintained Schools		In Independent Schools		Not at School		Total	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
(*a*). *Blind*										
2—5 years ...							1		1	
6—10 years ...										
11—15 years ...										
Over 15 years ...										
(*b*). *Partially Sighted*										
2—5 years ...										
6—10 years ...		1	2						2	1
11—15 years ...				2						2
Over 15 years ...										
(*c*). *Deaf*										
2—5 years ...										
6—10 years ...		1	2				1		3	1
11—15 years ...										
Over 15 years ...										
(*d*). *Partially Deaf*										
2—5 years ...										
6—10 years ...		1	2		1				3	1
11—15 years ...			2	1					2	1
Over 15 years ...										
(*e*). *Educationally Subnormal*										
2—5 years ...			1	1					1	1
6—10 years ...			10	8					10	8
11—16 years ...	3		13	6					16	6
Over 15 years ...										
(*f*). *Epileptic*										
2—5 years ...				1						1
6—10 years ...			2						2	
11—15 years ...		2		1						3
Over 15 years ...										
(*g*). *Maladjusted*										
2—5 years ...				1						1
6—10 years ...										
11—15 years ...			2						2	
Over 15 years ...										
(*h*). *Physically Handicapped*										
2—5 years ...			1	1					1	1
6—10 years ...			3	2				1	3	3
11—15 years ...	2		2	3			1		5	3
Over 15 years ...				1						1
(*i*) *Speech Defects*										
2—5 years ...				1						1
6—10 years ..			2	2					2	2
11—15 years ...			7	2					7	2
Over 15 years ...										
(*j*). *Delicate*										
2—5 years ...				3			1		1	3
6—10 years ...	1	4	6	7			1		8	11
11—15 years ...	3	2	8	7				1	11	10
Over 15 years ...		1								1

HANDICAPPED PUPILS. TABLE VIII.

Special Schools at which Breconshire Children are accommodated.

	January 1st 1953		Admitted during year		Discharged during year		December 31st, 1953	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Blind Pupils	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Partially Sighted Pupils								
Sunshine Homes, Abbottskerswell	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Blind School, Bridgend ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Deaf Pupils								
Llandrindod Residential School for the Deaf ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wessington Court, Woolhope, Hereford ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Partially Deaf Pupils								
Llandrindod Residential School for the Deaf ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Delicate Pupils ...								
Open Air School, Penoyre, Nr. Brecon ...	—	—	7	7	3	—	4	7
Educationally Subnormal Pupils								
Hilston Park Special School, Mon.	2	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
Epileptic Pupils ...								
Maghull Homes for Epileptics, Liverpool ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Elizabeth's Home and School, Much Hadham ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Maladjusted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Physically Handicapped Pupils								
Dr. Barnardo's Australasian Hospital, Barkingside ...	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
The Hollins Lund Lane, Killinghall, Harrogate ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Garden City, Woodford Bridge Essex ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Speech Defects ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	4	2	13	9	5	1	12	10